

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

With the holidays upon us, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind District of Columbia residents of how important it is to volunteer and help our neighbors. I hope all of our readers will remember to brighten someone else's day by spending time with them, sharing a warm meal, or making a contribution to an organization that cares for those who are less fortunate.

This is the season of giving, and that means we all need to slow down, count our blessings and cherish those around us—our family, neighbors, and especially our seniors and young people. As always, I encourage our citizens to look out for each other, to check on your neighbors who may be seniors or who may need extra assistance during the holidays.

Many exciting things are happening in our city when it comes to committing ourselves to service. The great humanitarian Albert Schweitzer once said, "One does not have to be an angel in order to be a saint." For our readers interested in getting involved with an organization during the holidays, there is still time to sign up. The good news is that first-timers can do just about anything. Volunteers may contact Greater DC Cares, our local volunteer center, or contact an organization directly to offer their time and talent.

Of course, there are many things residents can do to lend a helping hand. Below are a few examples:

- Prepare and deliver meals to residents with life-challenging illnesses with the group Food and Friends.
- Play games with children at the House of Ruth, a place that gives shelter to abused families.
- Spruce up a local park with Washington Parks and People.
- Sort donated food for the Capital Area Food Bank.
- Create a holiday basket for an elderly neighbor.
- Be a supportive friend to residents at Calvary Women's Services, which may include having a conversation, supervising chores or checking in a new resident.
- Help with administrative tasks, such as answering the phones, at Mount Carmel House, a homeless shelter for women.
- Become a trained DC Citizen Corps volunteer and help our community during an emergency.
- Serve as a board member for the New Community After School and Advocacy Program.
- Be a tutor at a local school, such as Perry School Community Service Center or Maya Angelou Public Charter School.
- Become a mentor: sign up with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the National Capital Area.

So what's the best way to find out about these great opportunities to serve our community? Residents can visit the District of Columbia Website, www.dc.gov, to find volunteer opportunities. Click on "Volunteer in the Nation's Capital." Or, you can call 1-800-Volunteer to be connected to your local volunteer center.

It is important to remember that volunteering and the spirit of service continue year-round. We can all live more fruitful lives if we give back to the elderly whose wisdom we rely on, give back to the children who are our future, and give back to our community where we live.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

The District's Youth Mayor

I am pleased to introduce our readers to the District of Columbia's new Youth Mayor. April York was born on December 22, 1986. She is currently a senior at Woodrow Wilson Senior High School in Northwest. April aspires to become a young civil rights activist. She loves the poetry of Maya Angelou and strongly believes in Angelou's poem "Still I Rise." April was kind enough to join us at Citizen Summit III on November 15, where she joined me onstage to say a few words.

She is a very motivated, dedicated, self-assured, hard-working young lady. In elementary school, she served as a Junior FBI Agent, which explains her interest in the law. She graduated with honors in 2000 from St. Francis De Sales Catholic School. April has received various awards and certificates in the following categories: reading, English, religion, and history. She plans to attend Morgan State University next June, where she intends to major in political science and minor in pre-law.

April's commitment to her community is an inspiration. She began working with the Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute in June of 2000. She was selected to be a Ward 5 representative of the DC Youth Advisory Council, run by the Executive Office of Neighborhood Action. Through the council, April developed leadership skills.

Through the DC Youth Advisory Council, April also was given the opportunity to travel to Anaheim, California, where she attended the National Crime Prevention Summit. She also joined me on my recent trip to Brussels, Belgium for an important trade mission designed to strengthen our ties to the capital of the European Union.

I welcome April with open arms as our new Youth Mayor, and I look forward to working with her in the coming months on a variety of issues, including a passion that we both share: education.

Community Profile Eddie Sullivan

Eddie Sullivan, a resident of Benning Ridge in Ward 7, has several nicknames. Some of his neighbors call him Mr. Eddie or Pops, but all of his neighbors call on him when they need an extra hand. He volunteers daily to assist senior citizens, guide troubled youth, and keep his neighborhood safe.

"If he knows of a need, he responds to it," Amanda Rudd, sister and nominator, said. "He has a burning desire to make senior citizens' lives more livable."

Eddie is most known for being the neighbor who lends a helping hand, from taking senior citizens to doctor appointments to repairing bicycles for children. He volunteers for Meals on Wheels, So Others Might Eat (SOME), and Our Lady Queen of Peace. To combat the crime in his neighborhood, Eddie helped start the Orange Hat Patrol, a neighborhood watch program, and communicates regularly with police commanders. "I do as I see needed," Eddie said. "If you help one, it goes to the other."

In 1966, Eddie and his wife, Doris, helped organize the Catholic Youth Organization to help build the character of youth through sports activities. Eddie coached basketball 23 years for the program and spent innumerable hours off the court counseling youth to make sure they stayed on the right track in life. Many of the youth he mentored went to college due to his guidance. Although Eddie is no longer coaching basketball or serving Saturday meals to neighborhood youth, he still volunteers full-time to help his neighborhood become safer and stronger.

Eddie is the July adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by the DC Commission on National and Community Service. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.cnscs.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



Eddie Sullivan



LINK TO OTHER
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Former Convention Center Redevelopment Announced

On November 6, I announced that the partnership of Hines Interest/Charles E. Smith Companies/The Georgetown Company had been selected to develop the site of the former convention center.

Three years ago, I appointed a task force to define a vision for this site. In July 2002, the DC Council approved our vision for creating this new destination downtown, and after a meticulous and exhaustive process of meetings, site visits, and negotiations and due diligence, our team made a recommendation to me and I accepted its recommendation.

Hines/Smith/Georgetown (H/S/G) is a national leader in the field of real estate development. The redevelopment of this 10-acre site is another crucial step forward in the transformation of our downtown into a vibrant and active core of our city.

Development of the old Washington Convention Center is a tremendous opportunity to build a dynamic, new identity for downtown's East End, while creating jobs for our residents and revenue for District businesses.

We will create a vibrant neighborhood with housing for all income levels, as well as outdoor cafes, retail and cultural attractions. We will create an attraction that instills pride in our residents and helps capture the 22 million annual visitors to the National Mall. And we will—as we have done with every deal we've struck over the last five years—improve the stature of our nation's capital.

Anteon Corporation Plants Itself in the District

On November 4, I welcomed the Anteon Corporation and its employees to the District.

For more than 27 years, this innovative company has designed state-of-the-art systems for national defense, intelligence, emergency response, and other high priority government missions. These services have ranked the Anteon Corporation among the top information technology integrators and earned them numerous professional awards.

The move was part of the company's strategic decision to put itself in close proximity to major customers at the Washington Navy Yard and US Coast Guard Headquarters.

We thank the Anteon Corporation for believing in us and relocating 400 of its employees. We hope that they will not only work here, but live here as well.



National Music Center and Museum Planned for DC

On November 6, I delivered remarks during a ceremony for the planned National Music Center and Museum. This exciting project is still a few years away from reality—but I'm hoping to cut the ribbon on it sooner rather than later, and welcome it to the District of Columbia.

I can't begin to tell you the significance of such a facility and its expected impact on the District's arts community. This Music Center and Museum will serve as an outstanding example of our dedication to the arts, not only in the District but throughout the country. As an avid piano player, I can say firsthand what music has done for my life in particular. I can also attest to what the arts have done and continue to do for our city. Music has provided and will continue to provide the backdrop for most of our individual lives.

Joining me at the event were Nancy Sinatra and producer and composer Quincy Jones. Both Nancy and Quincy are staunch backers of the National Music Center and Museum—and I look forward to working with them to see the project along.

Music is America's universal language. No matter what race, language, religion, or age, we all have enjoyed the rhythm and melody of a great song. That's why I believe this museum belongs here in the nation's capital.

The District of Columbia is one of the largest tourist attractions in the United States, attracting 22 million tourists each year. The addition of the Music Center will likely increase the number of tourists who flock to our city. Furthermore, it will create yet another cultural option for our residents who have the benefit of living in a city where places like the Spy Museum and other museums abound.

This National Music Center and Museum will create jobs, while increasing revenue for surrounding businesses. People will be drawn to this Music Center and Museum for its entertainment and history and leave the facility having been enriched by the beauty of music.

Mayor's Week in Review

Mayor Delivers Remarks at Conference in Alaska

On November 10, I delivered remarks at the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Nome, Alaska. This speech served as part of my duties with the National League of Cities, of which I am Second Vice President.

Mayor Appears on WUSA

On November 14, I appeared as a guest on WUSA Channel 9 to discuss recent issues facing the city.

Mayor Travels To Belgium

On November 15, I traveled to Brussels, Belgium for a trade mission designed to strengthen the District of Columbia's ties to Europe.

Mayor Gives Away Turkeys to Needy Families

On November 24, I participated in the Administration's second annual Turkey Basket Giveaway.

Mayor Appears on WOL

On November 25, I appeared as a guest on WOL radio to discuss recent issues facing the city, including education.

Mayor Meets with Governors Warner and Ehrlich

On December 2, I met with Virginia Governor Mark Warner and Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich in Annapolis, MD.

Mayor Helps Launch Georgetown Holiday Shopping Season

On December 3, I lit a holiday tree in Georgetown to mark the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

Mayor Presents Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Framework Plan

On December 3, I made a presentation at the Kreeger Theater in Southwest Washington regarding the completed Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Framework Plan.

Mayor Celebrates Groundbreaking at Newseum

On December 4, I joined Newseum officials at a groundbreaking for the new, much larger Newseum that will be located at Pennsylvania and Sixth Street, NW.



District Activities



All in the same region....all on the same page....On December 2, Mayor Williams met with Maryland Governor Ehrlich and Virginia Governor Warner. They discussed homeland security, transportation, tourism and economic development. The three also filmed a public service announcement designed to attract visitors to the National Capital Region.



911 Dispatcher Katrina Branch poses with Nicole Porter and her baby girl. Katrina assisted Nicole in delivering her baby when Nicole called 911 after she went into labor unexpectedly. Katrina issued calm instructions over the phone as EMS help arrived to transport her and her baby to Providence Hospital.

Community News

- [National Capital Region Leaders Meet](#)
- [Mayor Comments on Final Passage of Woodson Bill](#)
- [Mayor Williams Announces Youth Services Administration Reform](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

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|------------------------|--|
| 12/06 | 20th Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis
9 am
Freedom Plaza
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Between 12th and 13th Streets
For more information, visit www.arthritis.org |
| 12/08 | Home Purchase Assistance Program Orientation
4 - 6 pm
MHCDO Smith Center
3939 Benning Road, NE
For more information, call (202) 396-1201 ext 164 |
| 12/11 | Financing Your Business with Enterprise Zone Bond Seminar
8:30 pm - 11:30 am
Children's National Medical Center
111 Michigan Avenue, NW
To RSVP, email william.liggins@dc.gov |
| 12/12
12/13 | Bone Marrow Drive
Friday, 2 - 5 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm
Murch Elementary School
36th & Davenport Street, NW
Between Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road |

